

Message

From: "Elizabeth Hodges Snyder" ["Elizabeth Hodges Snyder" <afeh1@uaa.alaska.edu>]
Sent: 10/16/2009 6:30:51 PM
To: Wenona Wilson/R10/USEPA/US@EPA
CC: "'Susan Flensburg'" [sflensburg@bbna.com]
Subject: Pebble Mine health impact assessment (HIA)

Good morning, Wenona

This is Liz Snyder emailing – I believe Sue Flensburg spoke with you regarding a Pebble Mine HIA project I'm working to get off the ground. I'm thrilled and grateful for the potential opportunity to introduce myself and the project at the IGAP meeting. Sue indicated that the topic of HIAs is new to you, so perhaps a brief introduction would be helpful?

An HIA involves assessing the potential risks and benefits a development project presents to the health of a community. These risks and benefits to health can have social, economic, biological, environmental, cultural, etc. roots, and all categories are explored. The HIA starts with a "screening" process, which is essentially a lit review and perhaps some pilot focus groups in affected communities, and is followed by "scoping" (a refinement of the screening process and recommendations for required fieldwork involving baseline and exploratory studies), "assessment" (recommended studies are performed and risks are ranked), and "reporting/mitigation and monitoring" (application of all the previous steps). I recently submitted two separate, but very similar, proposals for some (very) modest seed funding to get a Pebble Mine HIA moving. If my initial proposals are funded, I'll be starting the lit review and focus groups this Spring. I'm also trying to get a small proposal into EPSCoR to fund the beginning of the scoping component.

A recent development in the project occurred yesterday – it looks like I will be working in parallel with a researcher at ISER (Institute of Social and Economic Research) and my husband (an environmental ethicist). They intend to explore some of the social impacts of resource development in the Bristol Bay area, including the proposed Pebble Mine. We're looking to coordinate some of our efforts, and potentially produce an integrated impact assessment report of some kind. If you and I are able to coordinate a luncheon at the IGAP meetings, might I include them?

Unfortunately, I do have a bit of a time limitation. I am scheduled to fly out either Nov. 3 or Nov. 4 to give a presentation in Ohio, and I realize that is smack in the middle of the meeting. Would there be any way to schedule something on Nov. 2 or early Nov. 3? If not, and you are comfortable with including the aforementioned researchers, I could perhaps ask them to share the details of the HIA project for me. That said, I would much prefer to be there in person, but I know how last minute scheduling can be difficult.

Wenona, thank you for this opportunity. I'm looking forward to speaking with you, though I'm disappointed I won't meet you in person. I realize things are tight these days! Sue also mentioned possibly putting together some sort of informative announcement email. I would be happy to write that up and send you a draft. If you have time to schedule a phone call to touch base, that might be helpful, too.

Best,

Liz

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"Fortune favors the bold" - Virgil

"Chance favors the prepared mind" - Louis Pasteur